

[CLAIMS]

What is claimed is:

1 1. A support arm for a heart stabilizer, comprising:
2 a table mount;
3 an arm coupled to said table mount; and,
4 an end effector coupled to said arm.

1 2. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said end
2 effector includes a spring biased retractable jaw member
3 that moves relative to a stationary jaw member.

1 3. The support arm of claim 2, wherein said end
2 effector includes an adjustment collar coupled to said
3 spring biased retractable jaw member.

1 3 4. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said arm
2 includes a locking knob.

1 4 5. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said table
2 mount includes a jaw and a table knob.

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1 6. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said arm
2 includes a first linkage, a second linkage coupled to said
3 first linkage, and a third linkage coupled to said second
4 linkage and said end effector.

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1 7. The support arm of claim 6, wherein said first
2 linkage is adapted to move relative to said table mount.

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1 8. The support arm of claim 7, wherein said second
2 linkage can move relative to said first linkage, said third
3 linkage can move relative to said second linkage and said
4 end effector can move relative to said third linkage.

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1 9. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said end
2 effector includes a channel.

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1 10. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said end
2 effector includes a plate.

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14. The support arm of claim 12, further comprising a
locking knob that can be manipulated to lock said first,
second and third linkage arms.

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15. The support arm of claim 10, wherein said table
mount includes a jaw and a table knob.

16. A method for coupling a heart stabilizer to a
table, comprising:
mounting a support arm to the table;
adjusting a position of the support arm; and,
coupling the heart stabilizer to an end effector of the
support arm.

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17. The method of claim 14, wherein the heart
stabilizer is coupled to the end effector by moving a
retractable jaw member of the end effector.

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18. The method of claim 14, wherein a first person
holds the heart stabilizer while a second person couples
the heart stabilizer to the end effector.

1 17 19. The method of claim 16, wherein a first person
2 holds and couples the heart stabilizer to the end effector.

1 18 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the adjusted
2 support arm is locked into an operating position.

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3 *AR* 11. A support arm for coupling a heart stabilizer to a
4 table, comprising:

5 a table mount adapted to be secured to the table;

6 a first linkage coupled to said table mount;

7 a second linkage pivotally coupled to said first
8 linkage;

9 a third linkage pivotally coupled to said second
10 linkage; and,

11 an end effector pivotally coupled to said third linkage
12 and adapted to be coupled to the heart stabilizer.

13 12. The support arm of claim 11, wherein said end
14 effector includes a spring biased retractable jaw member
15 that moves relative to a stationary jaw member.

1 13. The support arm of claim 12, wherein said end
2 effector includes an adjustment collar coupled to said
3 spring biased retractable jaw member.